

Fimbres House #1
509-513 South Meyer Avenue
Barrio Libre (Barrio Histórico)
Tucson
Pima County
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-73-17-2

HABS,
ARIZ,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BARRIO LIBRE (Barrio Histórico)

FIMBRES HOUSE #1, 509-513 SOUTH MEYER AVENUE HABS No. AZ-73-17

Location: 509-513 S. Meyer Ave., Tucson, Pima County, Arizona.USGS Tucson Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 12.502680 .3563970.Present Owner: Rollings Trust
901 E. Broadway, Tucson
Tucson, Pima County
Arizona 85719Present Occupant: #509-511, Handicapped Unbound, Inc., Arizona Association
for the Physically disabled.

#513, Steve Sloan.

Present Use: #509-511, commercial; #513, residential.Significance: This Early Transitional Sonoran style building was constructed in two separate phases: #509 forming the original structure, and the two attached dwellings added about 20 years later. The transom windows and gable roof exhibit influences of Anglo design standards. The structure, because of its isolated situation, and rehabilitation for commercial purposes, is a dominant feature of the South Meyer Avenue streetscape.PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: #509--1905/1908; #511-513--1926.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: See chain of title below.

Part of Lot 3, Block 241, parcel 17.

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|------|---|
| 1908 | Judgement, December 8, 1908, recorded in Volume 44, page 615.
Heirs of Samuel McClatchy to F. Fimbres. |
| 1933 | Deed, September 23, 1933, recorded in Volume 174, page 386.
Feliciano Fimbres to Julia de Fimbres. |
| 1939 | Deed, April 4, 1939, recorded in Volume 218, page 337.
Estate of Julia de Fimbres, Gregorio Fimbres, Adm. to
Manuel Valdez. |

- 1955 Deed, December 31, 1955, recorded in Volume 929, page 240.
Manuel Valdex to Manuela Valdex Garcia, et al.
- 1957 Deed, January 23, 1957, recorded in Volume 1082, page 570.
Manuela Valdez Garcia, et al, to Felix M. Valdez.
- 1974 Deed, July 1, 1974, recorded in volume 4799, page 789.
Felix M. Valdez to T. R. Rollings.

4. Builder: Feliciano Fimbres.

5. Alterations and additions: The original structure, 509 S. Meyer Ave., was built as a family residence between 1905-1908. Two apartments were added on the south side of the building in 1926. The building was converted for commercial use in the 1970s. A frame stable at the rear property line in 1909 had disappeared by 1948.

B. Historical Persons and Events Connected with the Structure:

The name Fimbres has been associated with this section of South Meyer Avenue since 1881, when the City Directory lists a Santos Fimbres. The builder of this house, Feliciano Fimbres (probably related to Santos), lived here with his family until the late 1930s. Fimbres, a laborer and wagon driver, lived across the street, at 506 S. Meyer until he built this dwelling, around 1905. Feliciano and Julia Fimbres had seven children. Two of them, Julia and Gabriel, lived in the apartments that Feliciano added at 511-513 S. Meyer Avenue.

Julia Fimbres (the daughter), married Jesus Sánchez and lived next door at 521-525 S. Meyer Avenue, also constructed by Feliciano Fimbres. Jesus and Julia Sanchez died in 1959 and 1974, but their daughter, Evangelina Cota, still occupies 521-525 S. Meyer with her family.

The property at 509-513 S. Meyer passed out of the Fimbres family in 1939, and has been rented by a succession of short-term tenants since that time. The dwellings were converted for commercial use after 1974 by a service agency for the handicapped.

Prepared by: Ann E. Huston
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Historic American Buildings Survey
September 1980

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This building is an example of the Early Transicional adobe building found in the Barrio. It has a gable roof, and the flush-fronted building is situated at the front property line.
2. Condition of fabric: Good; rehabilitated.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building measures 36'-6" north-to-south along its west front and 36'-9" west-to-east along its north side.
2. Foundations: Inaccessible.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The building is constructed of mud adobe with a stucco surface, painted white.
4. Structural system, framing: The adobe bearing walls support 2' x 6" wood ceiling joists and a light frame wood rafter system. The walls of the east addition have parapets.
5. Porches, stoops: There is a wood wheelchair ramp giving access to #511. The floor level is one step up from grade.
6. Chimneys: None.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The west front has three doorways providing access to each of the front rooms. The north doorway, #509, has a six-panel door; the center doorway, #511, has a six-panel door topped by a transom. The east rear door of #509-511 has a five-panel door.
 - b. Windows: Windows are of wood sash with one-over-one lights with pin stops. The surrounds are of 5½ flat board trim.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The west portion of the building has a low gable roof with its ridge running north-to-south. It is covered with gray rolled asphalt roofing. The additions to the east have parapetted walls and flat roofs.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The rafter ends are exposed at the eaves.

B. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The building has two separate units. The unit to the north is entered via the center door on the west front. Access is into a hall which extends to the east. To the north of the hall is a room providing access into a large room along the north side which has been subdivided with a partition. To the south of the hall is another room which provides access to an interior room to the east. This room and the hall provide access to a room across part of the east rear.

The unit to the south is entered directly from the street with a major room. Two additional rooms fall in line to the east in a shot-gun fashion.

2. Flooring: brick floors:
3. Wall and ceiling finish: In the north unit, the hall and the two southern rooms has exposed 2"x 6" ceiling joists and 1" x 6" wood plank ceilings. The remainder of the rooms have plastered ceilings. The southern unit has plastered ceilings in the west and east rooms; the central room has exposed joists and plank ceiling.

The walls are plaster on adobe, painted.

4. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Most interior doors have been removed. Remaining doors are either five-panel type or have new hollow core flush surface.

The doorways have plank board jambs and soffits, with 5½" flat board surrounds.

5. Special features and trim: There is a 7" flat board baseboard molding.
6. Hardware: Standard hardware is employed.
7. Heating: There is a gas wall heater in the second room on the south side of the north unit.
8. Electricity: Electricity has been provided.
9. Plumbing: Modern plumbing has been installed.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces west on S. Meyer Avenue. It sits flush with the front and side property lines.
2. Landscaping and enclosures: There is no development along the three sides. The rear (east) yard is enclosed with a metal grate fence.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Building slip, Pima County Assessor's Office.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps, 1909, 1914, 1919, 1948.
Tract Books, Pioneer National Title Insurance Company (Microfilm, Recorder's records).
Tucson City Directories, 1881-1979.

Oral Interviews:

Evangelina Sanchez Cota, 521-525 S. Meyer Ave.
Felix Fimbres, 462 E. 51st St.
Eliazar Herreras, 1331 E. Waverly

Prepared by: Prof. Robert C. Giebner
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July 1980

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service's National Architectural and Engineering Record (NAER) in cooperation with the Tucson Barrio Association, Inc. Funds for the project were provided by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office and the Arizona State Office of Economic Planning and Development. Under the direction of Robert Kapsch, Chief of NAER, John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1980 at the HABS field office in Tucson, Arizona, by Robert C. Giebner, Project Supervisor (Professor of Architecture, University of Arizona); William Joseph Graham, Project Foreman (University of Maryland); Ann E. Huston, Project Historian (California State University, Sacramento); Maureen L. Gerhold, Assistant Historian (Pennsylvania State University); Student Architects Scott Marshall Dolph (University of Arizona); Carol Jean Lemon (Washington State University); and Harrison Adam Sutphin (Virginia Tech); and Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Summer Youth Employment Program Interns: Maria Arriola (Tucson High School); Ernest Cota; Lupita Lopez (Tucson High School); and Anna Trinidad. Photographic records were made for HABS by David J. Kaminsky, Photographer, Roswell, New Mexico. Editing and final preparation of the documentation was carried out in 1981 in the HABS Washington Office by William Joseph Graham, Architect, and Lucy Pope Wheeler, Writer/Editor, of the HABS professional staff.